

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 is noted with appreciation

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The remaining claims stand rejected as being unpatentable over US 6182288 (Kibbee), newly cited US 7490361 (Floyd), and/or US 5909802 (Puco). Although exception is taken to the reasoning underlying the combination advanced by the Examiner, the rejections are fatally flawed for another reason. The present application is based on International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000962 which was filed on July 30, 2003. The effective date of Floyd as a reference can be no earlier than May 3, 2006. Consequently, Floyd does not qualify as prior art and therefore the rejections should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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